

WARREN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
September 2009



MEETING NEWS

The next meeting will be September 13th at 2:00pm. The address of the meeting place for future Warren County Beekeepers Association is: Lebanon Presbyterian Church, 123 N. East St., Lebanon, OH 45036.

For this meeting we will discuss Robbing. We will also make time to talk about fall management practices and answer any other questions you might have.

Thanks to Patty Harrington for providing refreshments.

If anyone has any pictures to add to a newsletter in the future please email them to me at kimzeiner@gmail.com.

BEEKEEPERS CALANDAR

SEPTEMBER AND THE BEES: The bees will still be working fall flowers but, the amount of honey produced in September will be minimum. The days are still warm enough to allow the bees time to gather more last minute nectar prior to the first major hard freeze or frost which will kill the flowers.

SEPTEMBER AND THE BEEKEEPER: This is the start of the beekeeper's year! What you do in September will determine how well your bees do next year, and how well they overwinter. Here's your work list for September:

1) Consider requeening. You don't have to, if your queen has done well. But it is advisable to requeen in September. If you can afford to requeen your hive each year, it would be best to do so in September. A new queen means a much younger queen who has stronger pheromones and who will be more apt to lay eggs more efficiently in the Spring.

2) Take off all your supers. There is no need for them now, and you will want to tighten up the hive by removing excess supers.

3) Weigh your hives. This is guess work unless you invest in a hive scale. Find something around the house that weighs around 70 pounds. Lift it up slightly with one hand. This will give you an idea what 70 pounds feels like. Now, go to your hives and with one hand, slightly lift the back. Only lift it an inch or two so that you can sense how heavy it feels. It needs to feel around 70 pounds. If not, you will want to start feeding the hive 2:1 sugar water.



Also, stay out of your hive as soon as you finish your hive work. Propolis is the glue that holds all the pieces of the hive together. Every time you open your hive, you break the propolis seal. If you do this late in the year, when warm days are over the propolis will never seal again, and your hives can be blown a part in the winter by bad winds. So plan to get out of your hives early enough so the propolis can reseal on a warm day.

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